

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 2900

UNCLAS MANAMA 0372

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EAID, BA

SUBJECT : TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BAHRAIN: GOB
PROPOSALS FOR DRAFT PROJECT AGREEMENT

REFERENCE : (A) MANAMA 336, (B) MANAMA 367

1. AS AID PROCEEDS WITH RE-DRAFTING OF PROPOSED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, WE WOULD MAKE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON GOB RE-DRAFT SUBMITTED MANAMA 367.

2. SECTION ONE: WE PREFER LANGUAGE OUR 336 BUT SEE NO PROBLEM WITH GOB'S SUGGESTED CHANGE.

3. SECTION THREE: WE PREFER MANAMA'S 336 LANGUAGE TO 1975 DRAFT LANGUAGE EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BOTHER GOB.

4. SECTION FOUR AND FIVE: GOB LEGAL DEPARTMENT IN RE-DRAFTING DID NOT GRASP NEED TO ALTER ORIGINAL AID DRAFT AS TO FISCAL YEARS AND NUMBERS AS SUGGESTED MANAMA 336.

5. SECTION FIVE: CHANGES PROPOSED BY GOB ARE OF COURSE SIGNIFICANT. WE UNDERSTAND GOB'S DESIRE TO PUT A SPECIFIC FIGURE RATHER THAN "ONE HALF THE COST" ON GOB CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PART-TIME ADVISORS IS PROMPTED BY DESIRE TO PLAN BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE. IT SOUNDS A LITTLE UNWORKABLE TO US BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE AID'S REACTION. PROPOSED GOB CHANGES RE OFFICE, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES TO
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BE MADE AVAILABLE OBVIOUSLY REFLECT GOB'S CAUTION ABOUT

MEETING THE EXPECTATIONS OF AID ADVISORS. BEFORE COMMENTING ON TRANSPORTATION QUESTION, WE NEED CLARIFICATION REQUESTED MANAMA 336 AS TO HOW AID PROPOSES TO HANDLE TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE. RE HOUSING, WE WOULD SUGGEST A COMPLETE RE-DRAFT OF APPROPRIATE SUB PARAGRAPH ALONG LINES: "GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN WILL PROVIDE EACH ADVISOR FULLY FURNISHED AND AIR CONDITIONED LIVING QUARTERS OF QUALITY AND SIZE CERTIFIED AS ACCEPTABLE BY THE AID AFFAIRS OFFICER FXR BAHRAIN (EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER)." RECOMMEND ACCEPTING PROPOSED GOB'S CHANGE RE OFFICE SPACE AND CLERICAL ASSISTANCE SINCE IT REFLECTS THE REALITY ADVISORS WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH IN ANY EVENT. GOB'S PROPOSED RE-DRAFT RE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES IS DESIGNED TO MAKE TREATMENT OF AID ADVISORS CONSISTENT WITH THAT AFFORDED OTHER EXPATRIATE ADVISORS IN BAHRAIN (FOR INSTANCE, BRITISH AND UNDP). AS PRACTICAL MATTER, OPERATING UNDER SUCH LANGUAGE WOULD POSE LITTLE MATERIAL HARDSHIP BUT PRESUMABLY IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARGUE THIS ISSUE UNTIL WE KNOW WHETHER ADVISORS WILL BE AID CAREER OR CONTRACT.

6. SECTION SIX: GOB'S PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY FOR OIL AND INDUSTRY AS PROJECT OFFICER IS A REALISTIC AND EXCELLENT ONE WITH WHICH WE SHOULD READILY AGREE. OFFICIAL IN QUESTION IS SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SULMAN BIN MOHAMMAD AL KHALIFA WHO IS RIGHT-HAND MAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY MINISTER SHIRAWI. SHAIKH KHALIFA IS AS EFFECTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL AS ANY SUB-CABINET LEVEL BAHRAINI WE COULD FIND TO SERVE AS GOB'S FOCAL POINT FOR IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM.

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